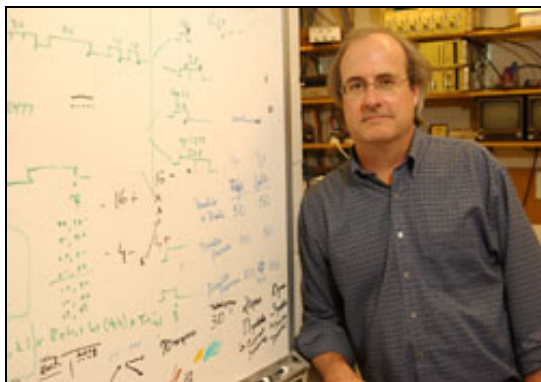


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Mark Bouton's basic research on learning and extinction has implications for treating addictions (and keeping New Year's resolutions). (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

As both an amateur musician and a passionate fan, Professor Mark Bouton is a jazz enthusiast with an intellectual bent — both music theory and an encyclopedic knowledge of history inform his post-bebop taste. But if the sultry sound of *Kind of Blue* seems worlds away from the lab where the psychologist tests his theories of learning on rats, Bouton sees a chord of commonality.

[FULL STORY ►](#)

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

Jan. 25, 7 p.m.
Update: Highlights of "green" and sustainable components in all new construction and renovation projects on campus. Campus Center Theatre 1101.
Information: [AFS](#)

Jan. 25, 7 p.m. Talk: U.S. Army Chaplain Jacob Goldstein will share experiences and insights from Ground Zero, the Middle East and, most recently, post-Katrina Louisiana. L108 Lafayette.

Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Lecture: Planning for Power: Citizen Participation in the Siting of a High-Voltage Transmission Line in Vermont," with Richard Watts, policy fellow at the the Snelling Center for Government. Memorial Lounge, 338 Waterman.

Jan. 27, 7 p.m. Lane Series Concert: Pianist Hartmut Holl and soprano Mitsuko Shirai who will perform Schumann's song cycle *Dichterliebe* set to poetry by Heinrich Heine. Music Building Recital Hall. [Lane Series](#)

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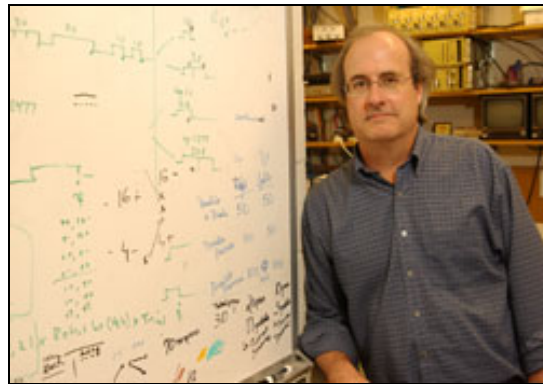
UVM HOMEPAGE

Beyond Pavlov

Researcher draws inspiration from jazz — and his predecessors — as he plumbs the basic mechanisms of learning

By Lee Ann Cox

Article published Jan 25, 2006



Mark Bouton's basic research on learning and extinction has implications for treating addictions (and keeping New Year's resolutions). (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

As both an amateur musician and a passionate fan, Professor Mark Bouton is a jazz enthusiast with an intellectual bent — both music theory and an encyclopedic knowledge of history (he can reputedly name all of the members of Miles Davis' bands) inform his post-bebop taste.

But if the sultry sound of *Kind of Blue* seems worlds away from the lab where the psychologist tests his theories of learning on

rats, Bouton sees a chord of commonality. Jazz is a metaphor that's influenced the course of his work for more than twenty years and put him at the vanguard of his field, doing research that's followed closely by other experimentalists, clinical psychologists and neuroscientists.

"Jazz is kind of an academic thing; it's very cerebral," says Bouton, recalling his own reflections driving home after giving a highly theoretical talk. "I realized I was sort of playing jazz...you can always blow some great jazz riffs and really amuse two or three people in an audience of a hundred."

His work, he decided, connecting neural events and human behavior, should speak not just to aficionados, but have broader significance. Today Bouton is an in-demand speaker at clinical conferences and a frequent contributor to journals where he translates his basic experiments into insights that may lead to better treatment for issues like anxiety disorders and drug addiction.

Revisiting Pavlov

What might seem surprising about Bouton's pioneering research is that it's based on some familiar, even old-fashioned-seeming ground, possibly more Louis Armstrong than John Coltrane.

Not so.

Bouton's quest to understand the basic mechanisms of learning, memory and emotion — and the extinction of unwanted behaviors — is grounded in classical conditioning, the learning theory made famous by the Russian physician Ivan Pavlov and his work with dogs, bells, and food, that is now once again a hot topic in academic circles and the subject of a special issue of the journal *Biological Psychology* due out early this year.

"I remember vividly a few years ago somebody saying, well, I thought Pavlovian learning was all figured out; everybody knows about it," Bouton



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says. "It suffers from this kind of Rumpelstiltskin effect. Once you know it, once you can label it, you think you understand it and it will go away."

If only that were true. Far from being consigned to psychological history, Pavlov's work has direct, and vexing, implications for modern treatments like exposure therapy and other methods of drug rehabilitation. The Russian scientist discovered that extinction, the process of teaching those dogs that a bell no longer means food, is a way of inhibiting the original learning, not erasing it as the word seems to imply. Bouton's leading contribution was the discovery that extinction learning is dependant on the context or environment in which it is learned. Leave the therapist's office or the rehab clinic and the lurking habit, fear, addiction becomes the default, explaining the prevalence of lapse and relapse. And context, Bouton warns, is far more complex than just physical space; it encompasses drug state and even time, pieces that he and his students are studying now.

Found in translation

Bouton's decision to play to the crowd, specifically to present his extinction work to clinical researchers, has had a major impact on the field. Thomas Brandon, director of the Tobacco Research and Intervention Program at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute at the University of South Florida, was in the audience during one of Bouton's colloquiums more than a decade ago:

"Mark was doing more basic research that most addiction researchers weren't paying attention to," says Brandon, explaining that many were stymied by the fact that cue exposure therapy — exposing addicts repeatedly to the stimuli that make them crave drugs (again, think Pavlov ringing the bell) — worked in the clinic but not elsewhere. Then Brandon and others began to get the message. One of the ideas he picked up from Bouton's talk was that extinction might be extended outside of the clinical setting by use of an "extinction-memory retrieval cue," a tangible reminder that could be taken anywhere.

In a paper published in 2002, Brandon and his team became the first to confirm that Bouton's animal research indeed applies to humans. In the first phase of a study on heavy-drinking college students, they extinguished alcohol craving through exposure to beer in the lab. By measuring the students' salivation, Brandon confirmed that the therapy worked as long as the students were tested in the room where the extinction learning occurred. Different room, the craving returned.

In the second phase of the study, the students were given distinctively silly pencils as a retrieval cue that they used during the therapy. When Brandon gave the students the same pencils in a new room, the extinction learning was more likely to be maintained. Based on that success, Brandon just started a new study, with Bouton as a consultant and funded by a large grant from the American Cancer Society, to see if the results will extend to an actual clinical application helping smokers break the habit.

"Mark is a good example," Brandon says, "of someone who really is bridging that often large divide between basic and applied researchers who often don't talk to each other — or listen to each other. He's trying to be that bridge."

It's a bridge that's becoming increasingly necessary for basic researchers like Bouton as funding sources like the National Institute of Mental Health seek a "translational" payoff. This trend deeply concerns Bouton, who believes that answering fundamental questions is an imperative of science. And still he gives the talks and writes the papers for clinicians.

"I think it's an obligation of basic scientists, frankly," Bouton says. "So I tell all of my graduate students that it's something they should do. It's nice to be testing all these cool theories. There are people around the world that are interested in this, but it has a bigger meaning."

Bouton won't stop blowing challenging theoretical riffs. Posing and sorting out intellectual puzzles are his art. His ability to make it sound good to the rest of us gives him soul.

Resolved to Change?

For those who can still remember their New Year's resolutions, Bouton offers some cautious optimism that change is possible, if you're willing to work. Here are his tips for training the brain to break old habits:

- Practice the new learning in the context where the behavior is the biggest problem. If you're trying to stop smoking and you always step outside for a cigarette after dinner, eat and then go outside and do something else.
- Work on extinction in a variety of contexts where the behavior is a problem, taking on one place or situation at a time.
- Indulge in a measured amount of whatever is "forbidden." If you're prone to bingeing on a bag of Oreos, practice eating one cookie and putting the rest away.
- When temptation arises, recall situations when you've been successful.
- Once you've established the new learning, practice at regular, well-spaced intervals, e.g. once a month.

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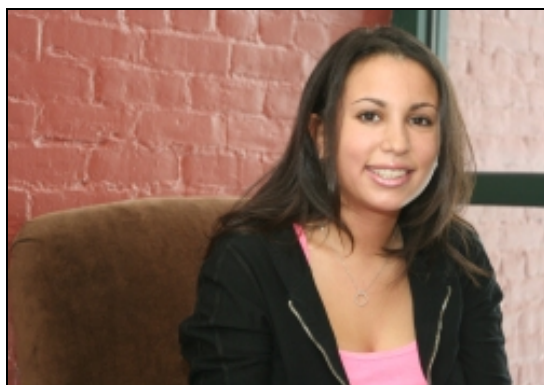
UVM HOMEPAGE

Diapered Dialect

Student's research wins top honors at linguistic conference

By Amanda Waite

Article published Jan 25, 2006



Senior Katherine Sadis' academic career blossomed as she pursued a research project with advisor Professor Julie Roberts. (Photo: Kevin Foley)

Listen carefully to your two-year-old. What may sound like a simple request for another cookie is, in reality, a complex utterance packed with audible geographic cues, according to recent research conducted by a UVM undergraduate.

The ability to detect regional accents in small children is the subject of senior communication sciences major Katherine Sadis' research project: "Learning to Talk Native: Listeners' Perception of Speech from Three Dialect Areas."

The project, which documents the ability of adults to accurately identify New York, Tennessee and Vermont accents in native speakers aged two, four and adult, was winner of the Charles A. Ferguson Prize for Best Student Poster at NWAV 34 (New Ways of Analyzing Variation), a linguistics conference held at New York University last fall.

The results are groundbreaking in the field of linguistics, a rare accomplishment for an undergraduate. "That (children) can physically reproduce the sounds when they are just two-years-old is remarkable," says Julie Roberts, professor of communication sciences and Sadis' advisor for the project. As toddlers, most children are still acquiring single words and are not yet able to string together complete sentences, so the possibility of detecting such nuances as dialect features in their speech has captured the interest of scholars in the field.

Sadis began studying accents while enrolled in Roberts' "American English Dialects" class as a sophomore. Her thick Long Island accent, which became a recurring topic of conversation in the class, may have also propelled her to take on the project, which she began the following year after contacting the communication sciences professor to enquire about continuing her studies.

"It's very unusual for an undergrad to seek a professor out," Roberts says. "I think she's incredibly ambitious and motivated."

Poster prize

Ambition and motivation were certainly necessities for an undertaking that would occupy her entire junior year. "It was a lot of reading, a lot of trying to understand the field. Because it is so new, the research available is difficult to find," Sadis explains. Not only did she complete extensive readings to expand her comprehension of speech and linguistics, she spent months devising, implementing and then analyzing the research project itself.

Beginning with a set of recordings Roberts had made of speakers from Vermont and Tennessee, Sadis created her own recordings of native Long

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Islanders and created a project that would test the perception of accents using the three sets of acoustical data. With money she acquired through an Undergraduate Research Endeavors Competitive Award, Sadis was able to offer \$10 per person to a group of 150 undergraduate students, aged 18 to 25, to listen to recordings of nine speakers, determine each speaker's native region and indicate how sure they were of their answer by choosing one of four certainty levels, ranging from unsure to certain.

After entering the data into spreadsheets, it became clear to Sadis that adults were able to correctly identify the native region of each of the three age groups based on speech, two-year-olds most notably. Not only were their answers correct when it came to the two-year-olds, but the majority of participants indicated that they were very sure to certain of their answers.

The novelty of the research project kept Sadis busy at NWAU. "Everyone was really surprised by the results. For three hours I stood around while people were coming up to me, genuinely interested in the project. It was hard to get a chance to walk around," she jokingly complains.

Among those endless visitors to her table were scholars listed in Sadis' literature cited, an exciting experience for a student of any level, let alone an undergrad who wasn't expecting to be accepted to the conference in the first place. As an undergraduate with a research project focused more on speech than linguistics, Sadis submitted her project to the conference with an outside chance of being accepted. Winning the award for best poster — while competing primarily against doctoral students — "was unreal."

Bolstered by her success at NWAU, Sadis plans to take her project to the New York State Speech-Language-Hearing conference in April and has been contacted by the University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics to publish her findings. With a publication in a scholarly journal lined up for next fall, Sadis hopes to receive several acceptance letters from graduate programs. Among the schools to which she's currently sending applications, a list that includes New York University, Boston University, Northeastern, Emerson and others, UVM is her top choice. "The amount of support and guidance I've received from my professors here — I just couldn't say enough wonderful things about them."

Sadis remains humble after the stir caused by her research and poster.

"Academically I was a little lost for the first couple years here. I was in communication sciences, but I wasn't grounded in the field," she recalls. "I'm very average academically. I'm not an honors student... but give me a project and I'll show you what I can do. The entire experience has given me such a sense of confidence."

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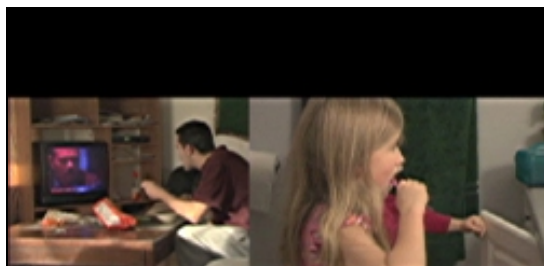
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UVM HOMEPAGE

Lights, Camera, Neighbors

By Jon Reidel

Article published Jan 23, 2006



Split screen, split lives: New UVM documentary aims to reduce off-campus conflicts through education. (Photo courtesy of Bruce Duncan.)

The final scene of the new UVM-produced documentary, "Two Way Street," is a split screen: on one side, a father and mother are putting their kids to bed; on the other, a college student is waking up from a nap and preparing to go out.

The point of the scene — and film — is to illustrate how differently full-time students live from their Burlington neighbors and then show how the two groups can co-exist

amicably. The production intermingles other split-screen, student versus resident life with interviews of students, landlords, residents, local law enforcement, Burlington Mayor Peter Clavelle and university President Daniel Mark Fogel.

The public premiere of the 18-minute documentary took place Jan. 19 at the new Admissions Visitors Center at 184 S. Prospect Street. Clavelle and Fogel gave introductory remarks prior to the film, which was written and directed by Bruce Duncan, coordinator of UVM's Office of Student Conflict Resolution, a part of the Center for Health and Well Being. "I thought it was realistic about how students live and showed the concerns of residents, but not in an abrasive manner," said recent graduate Kelly Chamberlain. "It was well done."

Clavelle, who recalled growing up in the area when many of the houses now occupied by students were homes of working class families, said he thought the film captured the sometimes contentious relationship between students and residents that was evident during his 15 years as mayor. "I truly believe that the community fabric is stronger than ever in this area and that town-gown relations are the best they've been in the history of the institution. But we've still got work to do."

Moving picture?

The idea for the film was conceived by Gail Shampnois, director of the Office of Student and Community Relations, as a way to educate and stimulate dialogue among students planning to live off campus and members of the community. As UVM's city and government relations liaison, she also wanted to create a tool to build workshops around. The film is being shown as part of the UVM Community Coalitions' new Off-Campus Living Workshop series.

With the use of workstudy students, Shampnois began accumulating taped interviews of students and members of the community. She eventually turned over the interviews and other materials to Duncan, who spent about 200 hours editing and writing new material for the film over a two-year period. Although the film started primarily as a promotional project, Duncan says it evolved into "more of a dialogue about community."

"It definitely has promotional value, but its biggest value to us in conflict resolution is educational," says Duncan, who received financial support from

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the Office of the President, the Office of Community Relations and the Division of Student and Campus Life. "It explores the meaning of community, student rights as renters, and ways to create positive community connections." Duncan says he wanted to include students in the film so their peers could relate to it. "It's one thing to hear it from a 50-year old like me, but it's something else to hear it from a contemporary," he says.

Shampnois says the film has received positive responses from Burlington city council members and interest from other universities, housing associations, and a thumbs-up from the Responsible Hospitality Institute, a national organization to facilitate cooperation and consensus-building among key stakeholders.

Breaking a cycle

The film offers a number of concrete coping mechanisms for students and residents. It's also pretty candid about how loud partying can affect the entire community. In one scene, two students who had a run-in with a neighbor who had called the police on them for hosting a noisy party talk about the importance of being pre-emptive and meeting your neighbor before an incident arises. Getting to know each other's class and work schedules is one of the many real-life coping mechanisms used in the film to help students and residents live together.

Senior Ben Blumberg, co-chair of the Student Government Association's Community Coalition Committee, agrees that seeing fellow students on camera gives credibility to the film, which he says shows the progress that has been made between the city and university over the past few years.

"Town-gown relations have been a big problem over the years, but I think relations between students and the city is the best it's been since I've been here," Blumberg says. "It's been a never-ending cycle; students get upset at the town, and then the town gets upset back. This film shows how to avoid that cycle. Just knowing your neighbor on a personal level, for example, can go a long way in preventing conflicts. What you do affects others, and this film shows how important having reciprocal respect for one another can be."

To watch the film online, log on to [Two-Way Street](#). For information about obtaining a copy of the video on DVD, call the Office of Student Conflict Resolution at 656-1402.

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[Faculty Union Seeks Applicants for Student Scholarships](#)

Jan 24, 2006

United Academics, UVM's faculty union, invites students to apply for its annual scholarship in honor of an early 19th-century black Vermonter, Jeffrey Brace. The United Academics Jeffrey Brace Book Award will provide up to three awards of \$500 each in the academic year 2006-2007 to be used for books and supplies by students who exemplify not only academic excellence but also an active commitment to achieving social justice.

[Mexican Human Rights Leader to Speak at 2006 UVM Commencement](#)

Jan 24, 2006

Gustavo Esteva, a passionate advocate for education, human rights, democracy and economic justice for Mexico's poor, will deliver the graduation address at the 2006 Commencement on Sunday, May 21. The ceremony will again be held on the University Green, a tradition that was re-established in 2004, the commencement of UVM's 200th graduating class.

[Student-Staff Retreat Takes Aim at Oppression](#)

Jan 17, 2006

Seventy UVM students and staff will begin the spring semester by participating in a unique program sponsored by the Department of Student Life Leadership Programs. "The Next Step" is a weekend-long social justice retreat for UVM students that takes place Jan. 20-22 at Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee.

[Search On for Full-Time Sustainable Ag Director](#)

Jan 18, 2006

UVM Extension will conduct a national search for a full-time director for the Center for Sustainable Agriculture over the next six months. The new position's responsibilities will include stewarding donors, developing a board and providing the opportunity for program development to meet the needs of a growing number of farmers in Vermont.

[Quickview: Athletics Update](#)

Jan 18, 2006

What's happening in sports this semester?

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Jeffrey Brace was born Boyrereau Brinch in West Africa. In 1758, he was captured by slave traders and eventually sold as a slave in Connecticut. Brace enlisted in the Revolutionary Army in 1777 and fought for American liberty for five years before being honorably discharged and, only then, manumitted. Following the war, like many veterans, Brace and wife moved to the new state of Vermont to take up farming. Virulent racism drove him and his family from their first homestead in Poultney to St. Albans, where Brace established a new farm. Brace's struggles for personal and social justice are detailed in one of the earliest biographies of a black American still in existence. UVM Special Collections owns one of the few copies of this important and rare book, *The Blind African Slave*.

Jeffrey Brace did not seek out struggles for social justice but neither did he fear them. Although stolen from Africa, he fought for national independence. Although a veteran, a farmer, and a Vermonter, Brace had to continually fight for his rights as a citizen in the country he had helped to create. He fought this fight in words, using the courts and the press. It is in memory of this important early Vermonter that United Academics seeks to facilitate the pursuit of academic excellence and social justice by the students of the University of Vermont.

Eligibility: Full-time undergraduate status at UVM in the fall of the year the award is made.

Criteria: Academic excellence and demonstrable interest or involvement in projects or issues related to economic and/or social justice

Application Materials: Applications should be sent to Professor Suzy Comerford, Chair of the UA Scholarship Committee, Department of Social Work, 443 Waterman Building, by Feb. 17. Interested students must provide the following materials:

- Academic transcript
- Brief statement of interest and/or involvement in projects or issues related to economic and/or social justice (maximum of three typed double-spaced pages)
- Letter of recommendation from a faculty member familiar with the student's interest or involvement in projects or issues related to economic and/or social justice.

Announcement: March 13, 2006

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Esteva began his career working for large corporations and served as economic development advisor to the president of Mexico, playing a key role in shaping the country's agricultural and rural development policies. He now lives in a small Indian village in Oaxaca, Mexico, lecturing worldwide and writing regularly for popular and academic audiences, adding to an oeuvre that comprises more than 12 books and hundreds of articles in fields including development studies, economics, anthropology, philosophy and education. Esteva has substantial ties with UVM: He has taught students in Burlington and Mexico, he collaborates on research with several faculty, and his pioneering work in intercultural communication and post-development studies has offered much inspiration to UVM's international education program in Oaxaca.

In addition to Gustavo Esteva, UVM will award honorary degrees to Graham Stiles Newell, a longtime teacher of Latin and history at St. Johnsbury Academy; Elizabeth Titus Putnam, founder of the Student Conservation Association; Barbara W. Snelling, former Vermont lieutenant governor and state senator; and Hubert "Hub" Vogelmann, professor emeritus of botany, who, during his 36-year career on the UVM faculty, conducted pioneering research on the effects of acid rain. More information about these recipients is below.

Honorary degree biographies

"Vermont treasure" **Graham Stiles Newell** has brought the classics to life for generations of college and high school students as a teacher of both history and Latin. Newell earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Chicago and began his career in 1938 at the St. Johnsbury Academy. After a 35-year break to serve as history professor at Lyndon State College, Newell returned to the St. Johnsbury Academy in 1982 where he still gives life to lessons in Latin grammar. He has also held seats in the Vermont House and Senate for nearly 30 years. Newell is known as a "walking encyclopedia" of town, state, and world history. He is the 2003 recipient of the Victor R. Swenson Humanities Educator Award.

As a senior at Vassar College, **Elizabeth Titus Putnam** conceived of a program that would provide opportunities for young people to learn about environmental conservation and put their knowledge to work in a volunteer setting. Two years later, Putnam founded the Student Conservation Association, an organization based on those principles, which has become the largest conservation service program in America. Serving as the SCA's president from its founding in 1957 until 1990, Putnam distinguished herself as a leader in conservation and youth development and has been recognized with multiple awards and honors. Today, living in Shaftsbury, Vermont, she continues to work on the SCA's behalf as an ambassador-at-large while also serving on the board of other local and national conservation organizations.

Barbara W. Snelling is well known for her leadership in both the public and private sectors as lieutenant governor of the State of Vermont and as founder and president of the institutional advancement consulting firm, Snelling, Kolb & Kuhnle, Inc. Following the 1991 death of her husband Richard A. Snelling, during his term as governor, Barbara Snelling served two terms as lieutenant governor and ran for governor in 1996, but was forced to withdraw due to health reasons. Her courageous comeback to politics as a Vermont state

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senator, 1997 to 2002, has served as a symbol of inspiration and strength throughout the state. Snelling, who was vice president of Development & External Affairs at UVM from 1974 to 1982, has been honored in the past as the Vermont Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year.

As a University of Vermont faculty member and a Vermont citizen, **Hubert "Hub" W. Vogelmann** has made a profound impact on UVM, the state, and the region. Professor emeritus of botany, Vogelmann's career at the University began as an instructor in 1955. Over the next 36 years as a member of the UVM faculty, Vogelmann's achievements would include pioneering research on acid rain, establishing UVM's Field Naturalist Program, and inspiring scores of students. Through his service on numerous environmental boards and his role as a principal force behind the creation of Vermont's Act 250, a landmark development and land use law, Vogelmann's leadership has helped establish Vermont as an exemplar in balancing land conservation and responsible development.

Information: [Commencement 2006](#)

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[Army Rabbi to Explore 'Faith Under Fire'](#)

Jan 25, 2006

US Army Chaplain Jacob Goldstein will share experiences and insights from Ground Zero, the Middle East and, most recently, post-Katrina Louisiana on Jan 25 at 7 p.m. in L108 Lafayette.

[Envisioning a Sustainable and Desirable Future](#)

Jan 25, 2006

The Rubenstein School for Environment and Natural Resources, in conjunction with the Gund Institute of Ecological Economics, is sponsoring a seminar series titled "Beyond Environmentalism: Envisioning a Sustainable and Desirable Future." Seminars begin on most Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in 104 Aiken Center.

[Former VP Candidate to Keynote Poverty Conference at UVM](#)

Jan 25, 2006

John Edwards, former senator from North Carolina and vice presidential candidate, will be the keynote speaker at the "Conference on Poverty" on Feb. 8 at Ira Allen Chapel.

[A Spate of Signings](#)

Jan 17, 2006

Two faculty authors will read and sign their latest books in local appearances in January and February.

[Soprano to Perform German Art Songs](#)

Jan 17, 2006

The UVM Lane Series opens its spring semester season on Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the UVM Recital Hall with soprano Mitsuko Shirai and pianist Hartmut Höll performing a program featuring Schumann's *Dichterliebe* (a Poet's Love) — a song cycle set to poetry by Heinrich Heine. The program also includes lieder composed by Clara Schumann, Meyerbeer, Fanny Mendelssohn, Brahms, Liszt and more based on other Heine poems.

[Discourse and Power in Vermont Energy Decisions](#)

Jan 18, 2006

Richard Watts, policy fellow at the the Snelling Center for Government, will give a talk titled "Planning for Power: Citizen Participation in the Siting of a High-Voltage Transmission Line in Vermont" on Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building.

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By The View Staff

Article published Jan 25, 2006

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His talk is sponsored by UVM Chabad Student Organization and N'Shei Chabad of Vermont.

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Seminars begin on most Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in 104 Aiken Center. A full schedule is below.

- Jan. 26, "Beyond Sacrifice: The Relationship Between Sustainability and Quality of Life," with Josh Farley.
- Feb. 2, "Scenarios of a Sustainable and Desirable Future: Lessons From the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment," with Rik Leemans.
- Feb. 9, "Ecotopica Revisited: Life in a Sustainable and Desirable Future," with Ernest Callenbach.
- Feb. 16, "The University in a Sustainable and Desirable Future," Daniel Fogel.
- Feb. 23, "The Re-Birth of Environmentalism as Pragmatic, Adaptive Management," with Bryan Norton.
- March 2, "After the Party: Energy in a Sustainable and Desirable Future," with Richard Heinberg.
- March 9, "The Institutions of a Sustainable and Desirable Future," with David Batker.
- March 16, time to be determined. "The Emerging Alliance of Religion and Ecology," with Mary Evelyn Tucker.
- March 30, "Thinking Small: Scale and Desire," with Bill McKibben.
- April 6, to be determined
- April 13, "The Political Economy of a Sustainable and Desirable Future," with Gar Alperowicz.
- April 20, "The Challenge of Building Social Capital in a Sustainable and Desirable Future," Elinor Ostrom.
- April 27, "Politics and the Environment in a Sustainable and Desirable Future," with David Orr.

Information: [Spring 2006 Seminars](#)

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UVM HOMEPAGE

Former VP Candidate to Highlight Poverty Conference at UVM

By Jon Reidel

Article published Jan 25, 2006

John Edwards, former senator from North Carolina and vice presidential candidate, will be the keynote speaker at the "Conference on Poverty" on Feb. 8 at Ira Allen Chapel.

Organized by senior Lakshmi Barot, state Sen. Matt Dunne (D-Windsor), and Democracy For America, the conference focuses on major issues related to poverty, including ways to unite key players and financial approaches to helping end poverty. The event starts at 9:30 a.m. with opening remarks from Burlington Mayor Peter Clavelle, followed by various local and national speakers.

The keynote address by Edwards, whose "One America" campaign and current organization focuses helping people out of poverty, is free and open to the public. The all-day conference is geared toward nonprofits, but is open to other organizations and individuals.

A campus-wide e-mail with event times and more details will be sent out prior to the event. Information: [Poverty Conference](#)



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NOTABLES

January 23, 2006

Publications and Presentations

Two Center on Disability and Community Inclusion faculty presented at the annual TASH Conference held in November 2005 in Milwaukee. TASH is an international service organization serving professionals in the Disabilities field, families and individuals with disabilities. **Susan Yuan**, research assistant professor and CDCI associate director presented, with Shelley Dumas of Texas, "It's Gotta Be Good — Two Old Broads Contemplate the Future." She also presented, with John Ming Gon Lian and Christine Gilson, "Hong Kong Perspectives Across Three Decades of Parenting, Inclusion, and Postsecondary Education." She was also elected for a three-year term on the TASH Board of Directors. **Michael Giangreco**, research professor of education, along with Carter Smith of the Williston School District, presented "Collaborative Leadership and Change to Address the Paraprofessional Dilemma in an Inclusive School" at the conference.

Robert Daniels, professor emeritus of history, published a new book, *The Fourth Revolution: Transformations in American Society from the Sixties to the Present*. The book explores Sixties "revolutions" in the context of other sweeping changes in American life beginning with the religious revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Kevin McKenna, professor of German and Russian, is the author of an article titled "'Poslost', 'syllogisme hégélien et proverbe: une approche parémiologique du roman Vladimir Nabokov Rire dans la nuit'" that appeared in *Revue des études slaves*. It argues that Nabokov's novella *Laughter in the Dark* amounts to a visual as well as literal enactment of the classical proverb "Love is blind." This proverb sheds considerable light on the novella being a parable of the perils and tribulations of life. In fact, the novella reveals a strange combination of paremiology, rhetoric and moralistic reflection on the comedy of the human soul.

Wolfgang Mieder, professor and chair German and Russian, is the author of *"Andere Zeiten, andere Lehren": Sprichwörter zwischen Tradition und Innovation*. The book contains 11 chapters on such matters as the nature of German proverbs, the linguistic and cultural history of proverbs, proverbial stereotypes and intercultural relations, proverbs in the letters of Mozart, the survival of Schiller quotations in modern literature, proverb parodies in the mass media, the use and function of anti-proverbs, modern proverb poetry and the lexicographical representation of proverbs in bilingual dictionaries.

January 18, 2006

Awards and Honors

Russell Agne, professor of education, won the 2005 Annual Prize for Excellence for submitting the best paper to the *International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability*. His paper, "Sustainability in Vermont's K-12 Curriculum Framework," was selected from the ten top-ranked papers on the basis of its contribution to new thinking in the field and will be published in their journal. As an award winner, Agne has been invited to be a main speaker at the Annual Sustainability Conference in Hanoi and HaLong Bay this month. The paper chronicles the collaboration by Vermont's grassroots environmental organizations and state agencies to revise an existing state K-12 curriculum framework that stipulated what teachers were expected to teach. The original version (1996) did not include emphasis on the critical environmental concepts of sustainability and sense of place. An extended advocacy process eventually led to the adoption of two new standards for inclusion in the framework.